

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 177983

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:IS

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR LONDON TALKS

1. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED EGYPTIAN REACTION TO OUR
SUGGESTIONS FOR CONDUCT OF LONDON TALKS AND THEREFORE
HAVE NOTHING TO CONVEY TO DAYAN ABOUT EGYPTIANS VIEWS
AS YET. IN THE INTERIM, WE HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON
REPORT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU WHICH YOU SHOULD PASS
ON TO HIM. COMMENTS ARE IN SAME ORDER IN WHICH THEY
OCCUR IN YOUR REPORTING TELEGRAM.

2. IN INTEREST OF KEEPING SESSIONS AS SMALL AS REASONABLY
POSSIBLE, US HAD NOT PLANNED TO HAVE ITS PRESS SPOKESMAN
ATTEND MEETINGS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION (NOR DO
WE BELIEVE EGYPTIANS WILL) IF DAYAN WANTS TO INCLUDE
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LOURIE. OUR OWN GROUP WILL BE FIVE, CONCEIVABLY SIX.
SUITES AT CHURCHILL ARE APPARENTLY RATHER SMALL BUT WE
STILL THINK IT WOULD WORK BEST IF SUITES CAN BE USED AS
PLACE FOR MEETINGS. IF IT LOOKS AS IF 15 OR 18 PEOPLE
WOULD REALLY BE TOO CROWDED WE WILL SEARCH OUT MEDIUM-
SIZE MEETING ROOM SOMEWHERE IN HOTEL AND CONVENE THERE,
PROVIDING SECURITY ASPECTS CAN BE MANAGED. BUT WE WOULD

CONTINUE TO AVOID CONFERENCE ATMOSPHERE OF SITTING AROUND A TABLE.

3. WE FIND SOMEWHAT ASTONISHING DAYAN'S DISINTEREST IN HAVING BILATERAL MEETING WITH KAMEL. WE APPRECIATE DAYAN DOES NOT CONSIDER KAMEL AN IDEAL INTROLOCUTOR BUT IN VIEW OF STRESS ISRAELIS HAVE PUT OVER THE YEARS ON HAVING DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEIR ADVERSARIES, IT SEEMS TO US HE SHOULD AT LEAST GO THROUGH MOTIONS OF MEETING WITH KAMEL, EVEN IF IT IS ONLY ONCE AND IF NECESSARY ONLY BRIEFLY. WE WOULD THINK IT WOULD BE WORTH HALF-HOUR EFFORT IN DAYAN'S PART TO BREAK ICE WITH KAMEL AND THAT THIS COULD IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE OF FURTHER SESSIONS DAYAN WILL HAVE WITH KAMEL. WE WILL NOT, HOWEVER, MAKE MAJOR POINT OF BILATERAL MEETING IF IT SEEMS IT WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

4. YOU ARE RIGHT IN HAVING SAID TO DAYAN THAT SECRETARY IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WAS REFERRING TO DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH TWO SIDES HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO REACH AGREEMENT ON. WE OURSELVES SEE FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS AT LONDON AS MOST PROFITABLY BEING PUT ON SPECIFICS OF WEST BANK/GAZA REGIME. HOWEVER, DAYAN IS FAMILIAR WITH OUR VIEW THAT THE TWO AGENDA ITEMS ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED I.E. ON ON HAND WE CANNOT GO BEYOND SECRET

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CERTAIN POINT IN NEGOTIATING A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT SPECIFICS THAT LIE BEHIND THESE FORMULATIONS; AND ON OTHER HAND, TO ATTEMPT TO GO BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT IN NEGOTIATING SPECIFICS OF WEST BANK/GAZA ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH BRINGS IN BROADER RANGE OF NEGOTIATING PARTNERS WOULD BE, TO USE AMBASSADOR EILTS' PHRASE, "BUILDING ON QUICKSAND". UNLESS THIS LINKAGE IS RECOGNIZED AND ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO BREAK THE PRESENT IMPASSE. IN PRACTICAL TERMS IT MEANS THAT WHEN CERTAIN LEVEL OF AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THE ONE IT WILL HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY EQUIVALENT LEVEL OF AGREEMENT ON OTHER IF GAIN IS TO BE CONSOLIDATED AND LEAD TO FURTHER STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, THAT NEED NOT NECESSARILY HAPPEN AT LONDON.

5. THEREFORE WE HOPE DAYAN, IN RECOGNITION OF THIS INESCAPABLE LINKAGE, WILL NOT SPEAK IN TERMS OF ISRAEL HAVING TURNED AWAY FROM DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AS ISRAEL'S OBJECTIVE. HIS DESIRE TO PURSUE SPECIFICS OF WEST BANK/GAZA REGIME IS PERFECTLY LOGICAL FROM ISRAEL'S POINT OF VIEW BUT IT SHOULD BE SEEN NOT AS ALTERNATIVE TO

PRINCIPLES BUT AS MEANS BY WHICH POSITIONS ON A

DECLARATION CAN BE BROUGHT CLOSER TOGETHER.

6. FINALLY, WITH RESPECT TO ONE ITEM MENTIONED IN
TELEPHONE CALL BY AMBASSADOR LEWIS TO STERNER, PLEASE TELL
DAYAN THAT OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE NOT RPT NOT TO HAVE
OFFICIAL MINUTES KEPT OF MEETINGS AND DISTRIBUTED TO
DELEGATIONS. WE THINK THIS WOULD MAKE PROCEEDINGS
MORE FORMAL IN ATMOSPHERE AND TEND TO DISCOURAGE FREE
FLOW OF DISCUSSION. CHRISTOPHER

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